

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

February 15, 2012

Facilitator's Summary

Facilitator: Robin Gumpert

The following notes are a summary of issues that are intended to point out future actions or issues that may need further discussion at upcoming meetings. These notes are not intended to be the "record" of the meeting, only a reminder for TMT members.

Meeting Minutes

There were no suggested revisions to the 2/8/12 TMT Official Minutes or Facilitator's Notes, so both were considered final.

Vernita Bar Update

Russell Langshaw, Grant County PUD, shared information about Hanford Reach operations. He said the operation is on track and the PUD expects rearing period protection to begin on March 8. Russell reported there were currently 922 accumulated temperature units (ATUs). In response to a question, he reported the critical elevation constraint would begin on 4/1. Russ will continue to give a Vernita Bar update to TMT throughout the season.

Chum Update

Paul Wagner, NOAA, reported on behalf of the salmon managers a preference to continue with a minimum 12 foot tailwater elevation at Bonneville to support chum. John Roache, Reclamation, said his agency would support this operation given there would be no impact to Grand Coulee April refill. Everyone agreed it will be important to continue to monitor conditions and be ready to make changes if forecasts indicate a significant change in water supply.

Planned Operation/Next Steps: Doug Baus said the COE would continue to implement the current operation of minimum 12 foot tailwater elevation at Bonneville. TMT members will revisit this issue at their next meeting on 3/7.

Operations Review

Reservoirs – John Roache, Reclamation, reported on projects. Grand Coulee was at elevation 1277.85 feet; using February final forecasts, the flood control target elevation for end of April is 1253.9 feet; with an April 10 target of 1270.9 feet. Hungry Horse was at elevation 3533.93 feet, with 2.5 kcfs outflows and 800 cfs inflows. The current end of April flood control target for Hungry Horse is 3530.5 feet. Lisa Wright, COE, reported on projects. Libby was at elevation 2409.17 feet, with 2.7 kcfs inflows and 4.0 kcfs outflows. Albeni Falls was at elevation 2053.1 feet, with 13.4 kcfs inflows and 13 kcfs outflows. Priest Rapids outflows were 106.5 kcfs. Dworshak was at elevation 1524.8 feet with 2.2 kcfs inflows and 1.5 kcfs outflows. Lower Granite outflows were 30.5 kcfs; McNary outflows were 131.5 kcfs; The Dalles outflows were 130.5 kcfs; and Bonneville outflows were 155.0 kcfs.

Fish – Paul Wagner, NOAA, said the spring migration had not yet begun. Washington will share the adult fish count forecasts for the upcoming season, and Paul will share an ocean conditions update at the next TMT meeting.

Water quality – Nothing to report at this time.

Power system – Nothing to report at this time.

Next Meeting, 3/7 Face to Face, 9:00 am

Agenda items include:

- Hanford Reach Update
- Chum Operations Update
- March Final Water Supply Forecasts
- Operations Review
 - Flood control targets
 - Adult fish counts
 - Ocean conditions
- Other?

Columbia River Regional Forum
TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM – OFFICIAL MINUTES

February 15, 2012

Notes: Pat Vivian

1. Introduction

Today's TMT meeting was chaired by Doug Baus, COE, and facilitated by Robin Gumpert, DS Consulting. Representatives of the BOR, COE, NOAA, BPA, Montana, Washington, Idaho, the Colville Tribe, CRITFC/Umatilla Tribe and others attended. This summary is an official record of the proceedings, not a verbatim transcript.

2. Review February 8 Meeting Minutes

There were no changes today so both the facilitator's notes and official minutes for February 8 are considered final.

3. Vernita Bar Update

Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD, gave the first report of the year on the Hanford Reach fall chinook protection program. All is going well to date.

Page 1 of attachment 3a on today's agenda is a table showing the program constraints currently in effect and those anticipated in future. Cells highlighted in yellow indicate areas where the accumulated temperature criteria have been reached. Cells in red indicate areas that are still operating under flow constraints. There are 922 accumulated temperature units in the reach as of February 13.

Page 2 of attachment 3a is a graph comparing this year's temperatures to mean temperatures for the history of the fall chinook protection program, which began in 1988. Overall, temperatures this year have tracked closely with the mean, but a dip earlier this winter reflects the recent cold snap.

The emergence and rearing protection period is expected to begin on March 8. Paul Wagner, NOAA, asked what the difference is between March 8 and April 1, the date on which two areas (4a and 4b on the attached chart) will begin operating under flow constraints. These are selective emergence zones at elevations submerged by flows of 36-50 kcfs, as well as elevations submerged by flows of more than 50 kcfs, Langshaw replied. While the constraints are in effect, discharges are set so as not to drop the river below the critical elevation.

Langshaw will provide biweekly updates on the protection program beginning March 8, or whatever TMT meeting most closely coincides with the start of emergence and rearing protections in Hanford Reach.

4. Chum Update

Paul Wagner, NOAA, said there has been little change in chum conditions since the last TMT meeting. The desired tailwater elevation below Bonneville is still 12 feet, if this operation can be maintained without jeopardizing the April 10 flood control elevation at Grand Coulee.

John Roache, BOR, said maintaining an elevation of 12 feet below Bonneville would not adversely affect the probability of meeting the Grand Coulee April 10 elevation objective, based on current STP projections and system model runs. Thus the **BOR** would not oppose continuing the current Bonneville operation.

The **COE** will continue to maintain a minimum 12-foot tailwater elevation below Bonneville, Baus said. The chum operation and its effect on Grand Coulee will be monitored over the coming weeks.

5. Operations Review

a. Reservoirs. Grand Coulee is at 1277.85 feet elevation, meeting power and chum tailwater elevation requirements below Bonneville, as well as Hanford Reach protection flows. Based on the latest forecasts, the April 30 target elevation for flood control is 1253.9 ft. The April 10 elevation objective is currently 1270.9 feet.

Hungry Horse is at 3533.93 feet elevation, with inflows of 500-800 cfs and outflows of 2.5 kcfs to meet Columbia Falls minimum flows. The reservoir is slowly drafting toward an April 30 flood control target of 3530.5 feet, based on the February water supply forecast. The April 10 elevation objective is currently 3533.7 feet.

Libby is at 2409.17 feet elevation, with inflows of 2.7 kcfs and outflows of 4.0 kcfs. Albeni Falls is at 2053.1 feet elevation, with inflows of 13.4 kcfs and outflows of 13 kcfs. Dworshak is at 1524.8 feet elevation, with inflows of 2.2 kcfs and outflows of 1.5 kcfs.

Priest Rapids outflows are 106.5 kcfs, Lower Granite outflows are 30.5 kcfs, McNary outflows are 131.5 kcfs, and Bonneville outflows are 155 kcfs.

b. Fish. Chum are doing fine, Wagner reported. Adult spring runs are a few months away, probably not occurring until mid-April as adults have been returning later than usual in recent years.

Returns are expected to be strong this year, Charles Morrill, Washington, reported. He will coordinate a forecast of 2012 adult returns to be presented at

the next TMT meeting. Jim Litchfield, Montana, asked for an ocean conditions update at a future TMT meeting.

c. Water Quality. There was nothing to report today.

d. Power System. There was nothing to report today.

4. Next TMT Meeting

A tentative conference call was scheduled for February 22. The next regular TMT meeting in person will be March 7.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
Jim Litchfield	Montana
John Roache	BOR
Doug Baus	COE
Lisa Wright	COE
Paul Wagner	NOAA

Phone:

Charles Morrill	Washington
Russ Kiefer	Idaho
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Shane Scott	PPC
Heather Dohan	Puget Sound Energy
Rob Allerman	Deutsch Bank
Ruth Burris	PGE
Richelle Beck	Grant PUD
Bruce McKay	hydropower consultant
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